

March 21, 2017



To: Federal Communications Commission

From: Dobson Telephone Company, Inc. and McLoud Telephone Company

Re: Forbearance Notification

WC Docket No. 11-42 – Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization

Dobson Telephone Company, Inc. (Dobson; SAC 431988) and McLoud Telephone Company (McLoud; SAC 432006) hereby notify the FCC that they are availing themselves of forbearance relief granted by the *Lifeline Modernization Order*¹ from the obligation to offer Lifeline-supported broadband Internet access service. Dobson and McLoud are owned by Dobson Technologies, Inc..

Dobson and McLoud are eligible telecommunications carriers (ETC) that receive Alternative Connect America Cost Model (A-CAM) support in Oklahoma. The Companies elect forbearance relief for those census blocks in its study areas that are not funded under A-CAM. The Companies do not receive high-cost support for those unfunded census blocks and are not subject to high-cost public interest broadband obligations in them. What follows is the information the Wireline Competition Bureau has requested in these notifications.²

1. *Carrier Names:* Dobson Telephone Company, Inc. and McLoud Telephone Company, Inc.

2. *ETC Designation Information*

- a. *ETC Designation Order:* Oklahoma Corporation Commission; In the Matter of the Application of ALLTEL Oklahoma, Inc., et al, for Designation as Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support Pursuant to Section 254 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; Application of GTE Southwest, GTE Midwest Incorporated and GTE Arkansas Incorporated for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Pursuant to the FCC Universal Service Report and Order;

¹ *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization et al.*, WC Docket No. 11-42 et al., Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order, and Order on Reconsideration, 31 FCC Rcd 3962 (2016) (*Lifeline Modernization Order*). In particular, the *Lifeline Modernization Order* forbore from requiring high-cost support recipients to offer Lifeline-supported broadband in areas where they are not receiving high-cost support or are not subject to high-cost public interest broadband obligations. *Id.*, 31 FCC Rcd 4074-75, paras. 309, 311, 312.

² *Wireline Competition Bureau Provides Guidance Regarding Filing Procedures for Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Seeking to Invoke Forbearance Granted by Lifeline Modernization Order*, WC Docket No. 11-42, Public Notice, 31 FCC Rcd 12672 (2016).

Application of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Pursuant to the FCC Universal Service Report and Order; Cause PUD Nos. 970000522, 970000515, 970000530; Order No. 418436; December 3, 1997.

- b. *Designating Authority*: Oklahoma Corporation Commission
 - c. *Type of Designation*: High-cost support recipient (*i.e.*, not Lifeline-only)
 - d. *Date of ETC Designations*: December 3, 1997 for both companies.
3. *Areas Where ETC Seeks Forbearance*: The Excel file that accompanies this notification contains lists of the census blocks, in numerical order by FIPS code, where Dobson and McLoud are availing themselves of forbearance relief. The listed census blocks are all those within each of the Companies' ETC-designated service areas that are not funded under A-CAM.
4. *Date and Reason for Change*: Dobson and McLoud received their first A-CAM support payments on February 28, 2017. Therefore, as of that date, the Companies no longer receive high-cost support for census blocks within their designated service areas that are not funded under the model and are not subject to broadband public interest obligations in those blocks.
5. *Information on Areas Where Carrier Elects to Offer Broadband*: Notwithstanding the forbearance relief Dobson and McLoud are claiming for its census blocks that do not receive A-CAM support, the Companies still intend to offer Lifeline-supported broadband in those blocks to the extent qualifying service is available.

Please feel free to contact me at (405) 242-0336 or tleforce@dobson.net if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



TRENT LeFORCE
Chief Financial Officer